

REMARKS

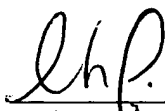
Preliminary amendments to limit the examination effort required for the claims have been made to submit certain embodiments of the present invention for examination in this initial application. The amendments are believed to be consistent with the disclosure originally filed. The amendments have been particularly presented to avoid, where applicable, any admission or estoppel, generally, negatively effecting the scope of protection provided by the disclosure and claims of the present application, and particularly to avoid any right to pursue any claims in any subsequent application, any prosecution history estoppel, any limitation of the scope of equivalences, or the like.

CONCLUSION

The specification has been preliminarily amended to limit examination to only certain embodiments of the present invention. Claims 22-41, 71-97, 128-153, 166-175 and 179-181 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1-21, 42-70, 98-127, 154-165 and 176-178 remain in the application. An early consideration of the present application is earnestly requested.

Dated this 30th day of December, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,



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prelimamd